

Theme for Friday, June 13, 1947:

"Safeguarding Our Liberty Through Group Action"

Assembly Speaker: Miss Mabel R. Cook, Exec. Secy., YWCA, Washington, D. C.

Introduction:

"Government is the most powerful thing in the world--man's greatest blessing, or most deadly curse--depending on how it is used."--Unknown source.

"Community government was our first use of governing power outside of our home. In these small areas: village, town, township and school district, we first cooperate with our neighbors in the use of our governing power to protect our homes while we provide for ourselves.

"Like charity, activity for good government begins at home. Good citizenship exercised in cooperation with one's neighbors to get good community government helps us grow in wisdom and will--purpose--to do our full share in applying the principles of good government throughout the nation.

"By our Federal Government we unite all our states into one great nation and put a strong arm of protection over every home and community, as well as a wall of defense around the country--a protection against outside aggression." - Pearson.

Some Issues:

1. Are there enough people who are willing to give up some of their individual rights to make action by groups generally effective?
2. What place should we give political parties in safeguarding our liberties?
3. Large groups representing such segments as labor or business or agriculture may become so strong they dominate our economy.
4. Fascism prohibits organization of nearly all groups. - Are there any that should be prohibited in a democracy?

Discussion Starters:

1. Not many young people know the value of belonging to a group.
2. Groups are bad for good government because they tend to run to cliques which become too powerful.
3. The Bill of Rights promises freedom of assembly. - Do you think of any limitations we place or should place on groups that want to meet?
4. Popular opinion expressed through groups should govern our lawmakers' actions.
5. What about pressure groups?
6. The small group - the family - the 4-H club, are the best places to teach the value of group action.
7. Which of these aspects of working together in 4-H groups appeal to young people most: a. Opportunity to have programs; b. Having good times; c. Learning to cooperate; d. Learning to stand up for rights; e. Or others.

To the delegates: The above is not meant to be a set outline for your discussions. Your groups should raise only those points which are of concern to you and you will think of many others. The speakers will also raise some points you will wish to discuss.

Prepared by Paul C. Taff  
Iowa Extension Service

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Theme for Saturday, June 14, 1947:

"Hold High the Torch"

Assembly Speakers: Garland Routt, Department of State  
Dr. J. Lossing Buck, United Nations

Introduction:

"OUR GENERATION KNOWS, as no generation before it has ever known: that peace must be made. If we mean we talk of peace that nothing this time will stop us from making peace--that neither lies nor deceptions nor tricks nor our own weariness will prevent us--if we mean this we can speak of peace to the living and dead without shame. For nothing is true or honest in the talk of peace but our own purpose. And the choice is ours." - Unknown source.

"In any government each individual gives up a part of his liberty in exchange for common protection and a chance for the growth of all. In any federal organization each state or province likewise gives up some of its freedom in return for the general good.

"The United Nations is organized by the concerted action of fifty-one governments. But much more it is created by the common will of the people of the earth for the well-being of all." - The World at the Crossroads.

Some Issues:

1. Not all nations will agree to a democratic form of government. - How shall we function in such a world?
2. Will loans and gifts of money, food or supplies to depleted countries aid in rebuilding better governments?
3. In giving financial help to other countries, what agreements, restrictions and qualifications, if any, should we place on their type of government?

Discussion Starters:

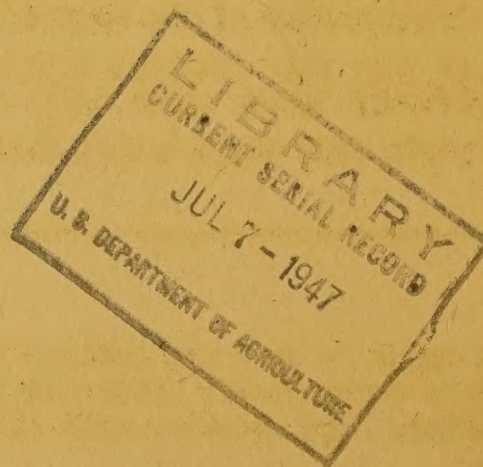
1. There is no chance for democracy to prevail in the world.
2. The world can function part democratic and part not.
3. We will have to continue to feed much of the old world for twenty years if we are to defeat communism.
4. We have always had wars and always will - so some say. What do you think?
5. Tariffs have no bearing on governmental relationships.
6. With the atomic bomb we do not need a large standing army.
7. How much will Organization of the United Nations help?
8. What products of your farm entering into world trade which might cause international complications? Which might help insure peace?
9. 4-H clubs the world over would insure democracy.

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Theme for Monday, June 16: "Individual Responsibility for Citizenship"

Assembly Speaker: Dr. Joy Elmer Morgan, Editor, Journal of the Nat'l. Ed. Assoc.

Introduction:

"Democracy offers the individual more liberty than he can get under any other system of government. It expects in turn that he will use it constructively and that he will at all times be on guard to preserve it not alone for himself but also for others who enjoy it with him. Democracy is a two-way proposition, but some try to get by on a one-way basis. They want rights, privileges, advantages and opportunities, and they take them. They forget that on the other side these things mean duties, obligations, qualifications and responsibilities. One cannot continually get the good things in life without giving an equivalent in return, yet many carelessly neglect that part of the bargain." - Vieg.

"A democratic government exists for the people and the people do not exist for the government. A democracy places the emphasis upon the individual, and it is the individual that counts and the individual who must have opportunity for the fullest development of which he is capable."

- A B C of the U S A

"Democratic government can rise no higher than the intelligence, purpose and conscience of the individual citizen." - The American Citizens Handbook.

Some Issues:

1. How can we define good citizenship?
2. What are the privileges of citizenship?
3. What are most important processes to insure effective citizenship?
4. Can any individual separate himself from his government?

Discussion Starters:

1. Youth today do not appreciate our democracy.
2. Voting is not necessary to good citizenship.
3. If young people were permitted to vote at 18 they would be more interested in government.
4. Everyone eligible should be required to vote.
5. One year of training in the service of our country for all youth would be the best way to teach democratic principles.
6. Most people are too lazy to bother with problems of government - they want to leave everything to the leaders.
7. Public opinion is more important in protecting the individual's freedom than the Bill of Rights.
8. Where do we gain most of our experience in citizenship?

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Theme for Tuesday, June 17: "Promoting the General Welfare"

Assembly Speaker: Hon. Watson B. Miller, Federal Security Agency

Introduction:

"Our task as citizens seeking to shape the larger affairs of humanity is to make our influence felt as widely as possible. We cannot expect to agree upon all our problems. In the end we shall have to adjust our differences in the spirit of good will and subordinate our lesser differences to the general welfare." - The American Citizens Handbook.

"We recognize that government is necessary to maintain law and order, assure liberty of thought and action, preserve the security of private property and provide the opportunity for individual achievement." - Edmunds.

"The new means of communication may force us to live together, but they do not make us fit to live with.

"The more science we have, the more religion we need." - Fosdick.

Some Issues:

1. We have many new inventions and facilities in the United States. - How far should we share these with all other countries?
2. In our own country there is a wide variation in living standards.
3. People demand the means for living more insistently than they do to know ways of living.

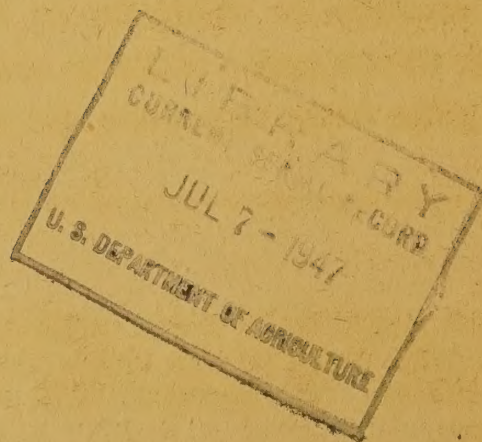
Discussion Starters:

1. There is too much variation in levels of income in this country.
2. Some people are not ready to accept the hardships and sacrifices that are necessary for all to have the same level of living.
3. People endorse tolerance only when the issue does not affect them directly.
4. What attitude should agriculture take towards labor? Towards business?
5. Real democracy operates too slowly to meet emergencies.
6. Changing our constitution endangers our democracy.
7. Every 4-H club should have a definite community welfare activity.
8. What are 4-H clubs doing to promote the general welfare of your community?

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Theme for Wednesday, June 18:

"Leadership Responsibility in a Representative Government"

Assembly Speaker: Sir John Macgowan, British Embassy

Introduction:

"Government by representation is another practical necessity. What a fantastic dream it would be to expect one hundred and thirty million people to meet together for the conduct of government! We must elect representatives to carry on our government. But that does not mean that the citizen's job is finished when the vote is cast. If "town meetings" mean citizens coming together in groups both in town and country to talk over the work of their elected representatives and executives, then the town meeting idea should not vanish from the American scene. Voting is the election day job. "Town meeting" is the year 'round job." - A B C of the U S A.

"Without leadership a democracy is in danger of failure. No great enterprise, public or private, can succeed without it. Yet in this country government often suffers for lack of leaders. We must ask ourselves how this can be, since a democracy would be expected to develop the qualities out of which leaders are made. Such qualities have been produced in our country but in the past they have usually been directed toward private affairs. \* \* \* Not every voter will give attention to government, but he will vote for the candidates and policies he prefers if they are presented to him clearly and in a way to interest him. Leaders can do this for him." - A B C of the U S A.

Some Issues:

1. What do we mean by "leadership?"
2. How can we impress people with necessity for capable leadership?
3. What kind of check and balances should we provide on leadership?
4. How does democracy encourage strong leadership?

Discussion Starters:

1. The most important of our leaders are those who live in our local community.
2. The 4-H club should select its own leaders because of the experience this would provide.
3. Leaders are born, not made.
4. History is but the shadow of great leaders.
5. A good leader is one who finds out the opinion of the majority and follows this guide rather than having an opinion of his own.
6. A good leader is one who can change peoples' viewpoint.
7. We have plenty of capable leaders.
8. The leaders and officers of 4-H clubs are the only ones in the club who get leadership training.

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